

**Freedom of Information request reference number:** 7054.1

**Date of response:** 5 January 2023

**Request:**

*Please can you provide me with the following information:*

*How many LFB firefighters have disabilities?*

*How many LFB firefighters require reasonable adjustments?*

*If any adjustments are made, are any adjustments made to the VO2 test and if so what are they?*

*Does LFB offer alternatives to the Chester Treadmill Test for fitness testing and if so what are they?*

**Response:**

Please see the answers to each question in turn below:

*How many LFB firefighters have disabilities?*

The number of Firefighters (Operational Staff) with disabilities is included in the HR Statistical Abstract Report.

This is published online, via the London Datastore, and can be accessed using the following link: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/hr-statistical-abstract> Workforce Composition - Ops 2022 tab.

*How many LFB firefighters require reasonable adjustments?*

London Fire Brigade Occupational Health Service Health Management Limited (HML) may make recommendations for reasonable adjustments. This is recorded on the individuals Personal Record File (PRF). The data is not currently available in a searchable manner. In order to determine how many firefighters, require reasonable adjustments a manual search would be required of over 3,000 individual records. This would exceed the relevant time limit set out under the FOIA. This 'fees limit' is calculated by taking the cost limit appropriate to the Brigade (i.e. £450) divided by the standard rate at which a local authority (including the Brigade) can charge for this work (£25 an hour). This equates to 18 hours.

Even if we used an average of five minutes for each record (3000+ files), it will take 23 hours (five minutes times 3000 records, divided by 60 minutes equals 250 hours) to review all of the relevant records. I therefore confirm that the approximate cost of providing the information you have requested is in the cost range of £6,250 which is greater than the "appropriate limit"

of £450 as defined the FOIA fee regulations. In setting this out in full this now serves as a formal 'refusal notice' based on section 12 of the FOIA. As you may be aware, if the cost exceeds the appropriate limit to comply with a request, a public authority is not obliged to comply with it.

*If any adjustments are made, are any adjustments made to the VO2 test and if so what are they?*

*Please see above*

*Does LFB offer alternatives to the Chester Treadmill Test for fitness testing and if so what are they?*

The alternative test offered to the Chester Treadmill Test is the Fireground Drill Test that has been approved by the National Fire Chiefs Council.

I hope you find this information of use. Should you have any further questions please do let me know.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#)